

*file Copy***ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET**

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

3-5991

NO

DATE

June 1988

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1.

C/MOD

2.

3.

C/ESG

4.

5.

C/FED

6.

7.

C/ADD

8.

9.

C/HED

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11.

C/Computer Operations

12.

13.

14.

15.

Retain/Destroy

FBIS-6038-88

9 July 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Acting Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau -- June 1988

I. GENERAL

A. In what had to be regarded as an unusual month for news, the three top stories in Tel Aviv Bureau's coverage area all came from Turkey. On 13 June, Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, continuing the recent cautious Turkish-Greek rapprochement, began a 3-day visit to Greece. His visit followed one by the Turkish foreign minister to that country, the first by any Turkish minister in 36 years.

The prime minister's visit to Athens, where he was greeted by anti-Turkish demonstrators of various leanings, proved no less friendly than Ankara, where on 18 June Ozal escaped an assassination attempt while speaking to a party gathering. "Only God can claim the life he has granted," Ozal said after the shooting, and resumed speaking after his wounded thumb was bandaged. In a first for the bureau, a VSL was filed from an Ankara television clip monitored from Jerusalem television.

As if to prove that the works of man were not enough to fill the country's agenda sufficiently, on 23 June a natural disaster, a landslide in the Trabzon District near the Black Sea, buried an as yet undetermined number of people. While Turkish Red Crescent sources feared 300 people had been killed, ANATOLIA's most recent count is 59 dead.

B. In Israel, Mubarak Awad was deported from Jerusalem to the United States 13 June over State Department protests. Developments leading to the deportation kept the bureau in frequent telephone contact with interested Embassy components.

C. A 20 June explosion in a Herzliyya Pituach pizzeria frequented by almost all Americans in the area shocked the Embassy community and injured 23 Israelis, two seriously. The blast, originally reported by Jerusalem radio as the result of a booby-trapped car, turned out to have been caused by illegally stored cooking gas. Subsequent investigation disclosed that the owner had been cited repeatedly for the same violation.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The bureau's efforts to receive Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE material via modem on a same-day basis

came to fruition. Editors are now downloading GPO material twice daily, except on shabat.

2. Israel Radio and Television raised the hopes of editors and monitors alike when they announced that no political interviews would be broadcast before national elections this November. The details, however, proved more realistic: Interviews will be allowed, but only if recorded and approved beforehand. Also, the ban affects only the main television interview program and the radio; other television interview formats are not included.

B. Lateral Services

The bureau expanded its ponyline service to Embassy components. With the addition of a printer in the USIS area, which also serves the DAO, eleven copies of Israeli media items wirefiled by the bureau are now being printed in the Embassy.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. After a delay of many months and repeated requests by embassy officers, including the ambassador, the State Department's FSN office finally calculated the adjustments to the local wage scale based on the November-December 1987 spotcheck wage survey. The adjustments were retroactive to 31 January 1988. STATE/FSN must still calculate the adjustments to the so-called fringe benefit lines of the wage scale, which will be retroactive to sometime in March. When this exercise is completed, the bureau finally will be able to calculate meaningful budget projections for both FY-88 and -89.

2. Junior Editor [] and TDY Training Editor [] received Exceptional Accomplishment Awards for work in the DRD during the transition from Rosslyn to Reston.

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3. Associate Editor [] was promoted to FBN 10/2, Systems Administrator [] to FBN 8/1, and Communications Operator [] to FBN 6/4.

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4. Hebrew Monitor [] and wife became the proud parents of a baby daughter, their second.

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5. Bureau Engineer [] departed PCS for Austria Bureau on 22 June, with home leave in CONUS en route. Len's successor, [] is due to replace him in September.

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B. Security

1. The Embassy has requested that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs grant diplomatic status to the entire 15th floor [] which the bureau shares with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Approval is pro forma.

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2. The bureau chief participated in a mission-wide Crisis Management Exercise on 15-16 June.

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Chief, FBIS Tel Aviv Bureau

cc: JN, NC